

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S):	Earl M. Zergiebel, et al.	EXAMINER:	Wistermayer, Alexis M.
SERIAL NO.:	10/560,879	GROUP:	Art Unit 3733
FILED:	May 10, 2006	DATED:	August 18, 2008
TITLE:	MULTIPLE MEMBER INTERCONNECT FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENT AND ABSORBABLE SCREW FASTENER		

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO/SB/08A is brought to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the U.S. patent documents are not provided in accordance with the waiver of that requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

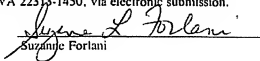
The items listed were cited in an International Search Report mailed May 16, 2008 in European Patent Application No. EP 08 00 4478, a copy of which is enclosed along with copies of the foreign patent documents cited therein.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted on the date below with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, via electronic submission.

Dated: August 18, 2008


Suzanne L. Forlani

identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.

☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.

☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under §1.114.

☐ To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.

☒ Applicant hereby states that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this statement as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).

☐ Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(2).

☐ Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$130.00. (37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))

☐ Please charge the \$130.00 petition fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

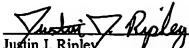
☐ Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

☐ Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

☒ Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account 21-0550. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 21-0550 therefor.

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Justin J. Ripley", is written over a horizontal line.

Justin J. Ripley
Reg. No. 59,187
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Carter, DeLuca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP
445 Broad Hollow Road - Suite 225
Melville, New York 11747
Tel.: (631) 501-5700
Fax: (631) 501-3526

Correspondence Address

Chief Patent Counsel
Covidien
60 Middletown Avenue
North Haven, CT 06473